Chapter 119: Memories
I'm really back...
Am I...?
Did I
Mistress Frieren, what's wrong? You seemed spaced out.
Yes.
?
For how long?
What are you talking about?
Then only a brief moment has passed here.
Did I really go back in time?
No, I'm sure.
It all really happened, without a doubt.
The mana has disappeared from the monument.
As if it finished what it was put here to do.
...
This is nothing but the remains of the monument now.
Anyway, let's set up camp in case we need to stay here for a while.
I agree.
You're already done with it?
No, there's no need. I investigated it thoroughly.
Let's go.
Is that so?
Yep.
There has something to be gained after all...
So...
Did we really wander around the forest for three days and three nights just for this?
Let's head back to the checkpoint.
We're going to spend another three days and nights going back there?
Yep.
Waaah.
Please don't cry...
Well, it's no news to us that Mistress Frieren is fickle.
It's your fault, Mistress Frieren.
By the way, I noticed something when we first got here...
Good point.
We've hardly encountered any monsters.
There are almost no monsters, even though we're deep in the forest.
Has it always been this way?
It'd make sense if this were a main road, but we're well off the beaten path.
Well, it works out for us.
We should be happy that our journey is easier.
That's true.
Hm?
No, it's okay.
It's a person.
Mistress Frieren.
Well, well.
I didn't expect to see adventurers go so deep in the forest.
And with an elf among them at that.
Are you, by any chance, Mistress Frieren?
Yes, I am.
I'm a warrior from a nearby village.
I come here several times a year to pray for good fortune at the monument of the goddess.
You know something about the monument of the goddess?
It's sort of a custom among warriors in my village.
It's just a tradition, then.
They're common enough in human culture.
How it started is unknown, even to my grandfather's generation.
That explains why there are no monsters around.
This path is used by warriors.
You continue this tradition without knowing its origin or purpose?
The journey here isn't easy.
The goddess bestows her grace even upon undisciplined warriors.
My grandfather used to tell me that all the time.
So, how do you know about me?
Over 30 years ago...
...not far from here...
...I met an old man who called himself Himmel, the Hero.
Himmel the Hero?
I heard about that from my grandfather.
That was a long time ago, maybe before I was born.
Never heard of me?
You wouldn't know it to look at me, but I'm the one who defeated the Demon King.
I can't believe I've run into the legendary hero from all the stories.
I'm honored.
Stories, huh?
So, do you have some business with the monument of the goddess?
I see.
Yes, it was a long time ago.
You could say that.
I know this area like the back of my hand.
Thank you.
Let me take you there.
So, do you have some adventurous tale about it?
He told me lots of stories about the adventures of the party of heroes.
He said that despite many hardships and challenges, it was a happy time for him.
I do, but I can't tell you.
I made a promise to take that story to my grave.
Perhaps she forgot about me a long time ago...
...but she's never left my thoughts, not even for a moment.
I finally finished investigating something...
...and I came here to fulfill my promise to Frieren.
She really is.
From what you've told me so far, she sounds quite heartless...
Well...
That's part of her charm, though.
Besides, I'm sure she's going to come see me in the end.
I feel it in my bones.
I see.
Himmel the...
Sorry for rambling on.
I'll take my leave.
Master Himmel just seemed so happy when he was telling me his memories of you.
I just thought you should know.
He's... Why did you share that story with me?
We got to the border checkpoint much quicker than we expected, huh?
We're headed for Imperial Territory next?

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